



1/21/19

The purpose of this statement is to respond to written questions the Houston Chronicle submitted to our Church on January 16, 2019, regarding an article it represented will be published in the near future on "sexual abuse cases" within the Southern Baptist Convention. When asked how the article pertained to Second Baptist Church, the Chronicle sent written questions regarding two individuals with a deadline to respond of Monday, January 21, 2019.

Second Baptist takes allegations of sexual misconduct or abuse very seriously and constantly strives to provide and maintain a safe, Christian environment for all employees, church members and guests. In response to the Chronicle's written questions regarding employment policies, Second Baptist's employment policies are internal guidelines for employee conduct that are not publicly disclosed. However, please know that our policy and practice have been and will continue to be that any complaint of sexual misconduct will be heard, investigated and handled in a lawful and appropriate way. Reports of sexual abuse are immediately reported to law enforcement officials as required by law.

Regarding the first individual for whom the Chronicle submitted written questions, John Forse was a short-term contract worker at the time of the sexual abuse allegations approximately twenty-five years ago. After Second Baptist became aware of the allegations made against Forse, his contract was terminated. Upon notification, Second Baptist Church cooperated fully with law enforcement in this matter.

Regarding the second individual for whom the Chronicle submitted written questions, Chad Foster's termination on December 6, 2010 resulted from a violation of employment policy that had nothing to do with sexual abuse or allegations of sexual abuse. The individual who later reported sexual abuse by Foster confirmed to law enforcement that the abuse did not begin until after Foster's termination at Second Baptist. When the Harris County District Attorney's Office signed an Affidavit for the Court in Foster's criminal proceedings, the prosecutor verified that Foster's sexual misconduct did not occur until 2011, after he had been terminated by Second Baptist Church. Second Baptist was not made aware of any sexual misconduct by Foster until he was arrested in November 2011, almost a year after his termination.

Second Baptist Church has and will continue to strive to provide and maintain a safe, Christian environment for all employees, church members and guests that walk through the doors of our Church.